

REMARKS

In response to the above Office Action, independent claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 have been amended to place them in method format, for clarity and to include the presence of “a lubricant” in the claimed process. Support for the lubricant can be found in claims 5 and 12 which have been cancelled. In addition, new claims 26 and 27 have been added to claim specific lubricants and an amount of lubricant of from 0.01 to 0.1 weight % based on the total weight of the aggregate material. Support for claims 26 and 27 can be found on page 9, line 27 to page 10, line 3. The purpose of the lubricant is discussed on page 9, lines 22-26. More specifically, the lubricant prevents the particles of the dry mixture of the aggregate material from binding to each other so the molding mixture can be readily filled into a mold.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by WO 00/05010 to Stoetzel et al., hereafter Stoetzel, and by U.S. 5,215,143 to Gentry. Claims 1-2 and 6-7 were also rejected under §102(b) for being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,169,880 to Yoshida et al., hereafter Yoshida and by U.S. Patent No. 4,495,980 to Morley.

It is realized the Examiner did not examine claims 5 and 12 which claim the presence of a lubricant, but is submitted that none of Stoetzel, Gentry, Yoshida or Morley disclose the presence of a “lubricant” in the disclosed processes. It is noted that Gentry discloses in column 8, line 21, the presence of “oils, such as linseed oil, core oils, and the like,” but these are not considered “lubricants.”

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-8 under §102(b) over the various cited references is therefore requested.

It is believed claims 1-4, 6-11, 26 and 27 are in condition for allowance.

Non-elected claims 13-25 have been cancelled.

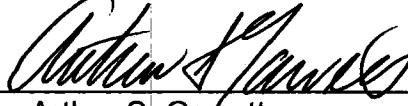
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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